STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES STATE LANDS DIVISION INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR TIMBER SALE ON CERTAIN STATE LANDS IN WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that sealed bids for the purchase and removal of timber will be received by the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources until 2:00 P.M., Monday, February 28, 2006 at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read in the office of the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources, 468 Folsom Administrative Building, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1901.

The timber made the subject of this notice is located on the following described lands:

Walker County, Alabama, Township 14 South, Range 8West, Section 29 West half of South West quarter, Section 30 South West quarter of South East quarter, Section 30 South West quarter of South West quarter, Section 31 North East quarter, West half of North West quarter, South East quarter of North West quarter, North half of South East quarter, Section 32 North half of North West quarter, South West quarter of North West quarter, North half of South West quarter, South East quarter of South West quarter, containing 492 acres more or less to be clear cut.

VOLUMES: The estimated timber volumes are as follows:

Pine Sawtimber (Scribner)	951,428 BF	6,660 Tons
Pine Pulpwood	4282 Cords OR	11,068 Tons
Hardwood Pulpwood	6037 Cords	16,451 Tons
Hardwood Sawtimber	453,769 BF	3,133 Tons

Volumes are not guaranteed and all bidders must satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of estimated quantity.

<u>TIMBER</u>: The timber to be sold is all trees within the sale area. All external boundaries of the sale area are marked by yellow tract boundaries. Streamside management zones (SMZs) marked with blue paint are not included in the sale area. Additional exclusion zones are marked with orange paint. No trees within the SMZs or exclusion zones are to be cut.

TERMS OF SALE: Bids submitted must state the total amount of the cash bid for a 12-month contract. Each bid submitted must be accompanied by a CERTIFIED OR CASHIER'S check representing a bid deposit in the amount of \$10,000.00. Bids submitted without such check will not be considered. Certain landowner assistance is required in addition to the payment of the bid price.

All bids submitted should be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope "WALKER COUNTY TRACT TIMBER BID, NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL 2:00 P.M.,MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 2006."

Unsuccessful bidder's deposits will be returned promptly. The successful bidder's deposit will be applied toward the purchase price, the balance of which must be paid at the time of execution of the timber sale agreement.

LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE: The successful bidder will be obligated to perform the following work as additional contract consideration:

1. At the completion of the harvesting operation contractor shall reopen an existing eight-foot wide firebreak along all tract boundaries. This shall include removal of tops and other debris resulting from the harvest operation and/or removal of existing vegetation to make it accessible for use as a firebreak.

<u>CONTRACT TERMS:</u> Any sale shall be on the terms of the standard Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Timber Sale Agreement, and shall include the following:

- 1. The contractor must make provisions for access to the property.
- 2. The contractor will be required to post security for performance in the amount of \$10,000. The required security may be in the form of a certified check, an irrevocable letter of credit with a bank approved by the State Lands Division, or a surety bond with a company authorized to do business within the State of Alabama.
- 3. The contractor shall have 12 months from the date of contract execution in which to cut and remove the timber. At the time of contract execution, contractor shall have the option of payment of an additional ten percent (10%) of the bid price to extend the contract for an additional six-month period in which to cut and remove timber. If exercised, the option payment is due at the time of contract execution.
- 4. The successful bidder (if any) shall be required to pay the cost (approximately \$500.00) of advertising this invitation for bids.

The successful bidder must execute and return the contract to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources within ten days following the date of receipt; otherwise, the award may be deemed to have been withdrawn and the deposit forfeited to the State.

All laws of the State of Alabama concerning the sale of timber from state properties shall govern this sale whether or not included in this notice. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

The Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Persons desiring to inspect the timber or further information regarding this sale may contact the State Lands Division, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1901, or by telephone at (334) 242-3484.